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# SAIGON POLICY SAID TO SANCTION PRESS BEATINGS

1960 Directive Cited  
as Allowing a Little  
Roughing Up

By RICHARD DUDMAN

A Washington Correspondent of  
the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5—Roughing up American newspaper reporters has been standard operating procedure by the South Viet Name government, a former government press officer told the Post-Dispatch today.

(The writer, who reported on the situation in Viet Nam after a visit to that country a year ago, has been refused a visa for a return visit. He was declared persona non gratta by the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem because of his reports.)

The Viet Name former official, now in voluntary exile here, said the Ministry of Information in Saigon issued a circular in 1960 informing various police agencies that it was permissible to rough up American reporters a little if necessary.

If there was any trouble, the Viet Name embassy in Washington would smooth it over with the help of public relations consultant, the former official quoted the instruction sheet as saying.

He said Tran, Chanh Thanh, minister of information at the time and now Viet Name ambassador to Tunisia, explained the policy by pointing out that American reporters are barred entirely from North Viet Nam.

"So it won't do any harm if we beat them up a little bit from time to time," the informant quoted him as saying.

By the Associated Press

The United States intelligence chief in South Viet Nam, John H. Richardson, and some other

senior American officials at Saigon probably will be recalled in a shake-up of personnel under Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge.

Reporting this today, informed sources said Richardson is being brought back to Washington "for consultation," but, Lodge has asked for a permanent replacement.

The others who may be replaced were not named. It was said that Lodge, who took over as ambassador in late August, feels that changes are needed for a more effective performance.

One major difficulty has been dealing with the authoritarian regime of President Ngo Dinh Diem. At one point Washington hoped that Diem would get rid of his influential brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, who is regarded as a powerful advocate of tough tactics against the regime's Buddhist opponents.

With Washington trying but failing to get Nhu out or to change his policies, it was felt here that United States officials in Saigon who had worked closely with Nhu are now in a position of decreased influence.

## Reports of Conflict

Also, there have been reports of conflict among United States Central Intelligence Agency men in South Viet Nam over whether there should be changes in the Saigon government.

Richardson's job is said to have required him to work closely with Nhu, head of the South Viet Name special forces and secret police.

Richardson is not publicly listed as CIA chief in Saigon. Intelligence personnel abroad normally operate under some other designation.

The official roster lists John H. Richardson as a first secretary and a special assistant to the Ambassador, assigned to Saigon April 25, 1962.

The State Department's biographical register says Richardson was born of American parents in Burma in 1913, was educated in California, served in the Army in World War II, and entered Foreign Service work in 1947 with assignments in Vienna, Athens and Manila before going to Saigon.

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